

REMARKS

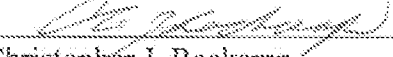
Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the notice that claims 1-11, 16-24, 39 and 40 are allowed and that claims 31, 33 and 37 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants have added new independent claims 41, 42 and 43 which correspond to claims 31, 33 and 37, respectively, written in independent form. Accordingly, these claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicants have canceled claims 12-15 and 25-38 without prejudice. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the remaining claims have all been indicated as being allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance to be issued.

The Examiner is invited to contact the below-listed attorney if the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Christopher J. Reckamp
Registration No. 34,414

Date: 9/18/00

Vedder, Price, Kaufman & Kammholz, P.C.
222 N. LaSalle Street
Chicago, IL 60601
312-609-7599
312-609-5005 (Fax)